Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A distributed system for managing ~~two or more~~ two or more a plurality of resources, the distributed system comprising:

    one or more objects, the one or more objects comprising information;

    two or more resources, wherein each resource is operable to manage the information of
one or more objects, the two or more resources comprising one or more resources of differing
type;

    two or more datastores, each datastore in electrical communication with one of the
resources, each datastore storing objects associated with an associated resource;

    a management module in communication with the two or more ~~plurality of~~ resources; the management module operable to receive ~~capable of receiving~~ a request to access information from  ~~related to~~ one or more of the ~~plurality of~~ resources, the plurality of resources comprising one or more resources of differing type, the management module operable to access the information from the one or more resources;[[and]]

    wherein two or more resources manage the information of a same object; and

    wherein the information relates to one or more entities that use the two or more resources.

2.   (Currently Amended) A system as defined in claim 1 wherein the management module comprises a configuration manager for receiving information from two or more a ~~plurality of~~ resources and a configuration store for storing predetermined information for the two or more ~~plurality of~~ resources.

3.   (Currently Amended) A system as defined in claim 2 wherein the configuration manager installs resources such that the management module can modify configuration information for the two or more ~~plurality of~~ resources.

4.   (Currently Amended) A system as defined in claim 3 wherein each of the ~~plurality~~ of the resources provides information to the configuration manager in XML format.

5.   (Currently Amended)   A system as defined in claim 1 wherein each object comprises:

one or more attributes, each attribute having a data field and a value;

one or more associated tasks that may be performed on the object; and wherein the management module accesses attribute and task information from ~~the~~ associated resources in response to a request to access information.

6.   (Original)   A system as defined in claim 5 wherein the attribute information for an object is provided by more than one resource.

7.   (Original)   A system as defined in claim 6 wherein each object is defined by a property sheet and the attribute information is a property page in the property sheet.

8.   (Original)   A system as defined in claim 6 wherein the task information for an object is provided by more than one resource.

9.   (Original)   A system as defined in claim 6 wherein each object is defined by a property sheet and the task information is in a property page associated with the property sheet.

10.   (Currently Amended) A system as defined in claim 6 further comprising:

a configuration manager for receiving and storing information from two or more ~~a plurality of~~ resources relating to managed objects; and

3

a property sheet manager for receiving and storing property sheet information related to managed objects.

11. (Currently Amended) A system as defined in claim 1 further comprising:

a configuration manager for receiving information from two or more ~~a plurality of~~ resources, each resource having associated objects;

a configuration store for storing predetermined information for the two or more ~~plurality of~~ resources; and

a search manager adapted to receive predetermined search information from the two or more ~~a plurality of~~ resources;

a search data store adapted to store predetermined search information for the two or more ~~various~~ resources; and

wherein the search manager searches the two or more ~~plurality of~~ resources in response to a single search request.

12. (Currently Amended) A system as defined in claim 1 wherein the management layer further comprises:

a configuration manager for receiving information from two or more ~~a plurality of~~ resources, each resource having associated objects;

a configuration store for storing predetermined information for the two or more ~~plurality of~~ resources; and

a task manager, wherein the task manager receives task information from the configuration manager related to tasks that may be completed in managing the two or more ~~plurality of~~ resources.

13.   (Currently Amended) A method of managing a <u>two or more</u> ~~plurality of~~ resources, each resource having one or more managed objects, wherein each of the one or more managed objects has associated attribute and task information, the method comprising:

receiving information from a first resource related to attribute information for a first managed object;

<u>storing the information received from the first resource with the first managed object;</u>

receiving information from a second resource related to attribute information for the first managed object, wherein the second resource is a different type than the first resource;

<u>separately</u> storing the information received from the second resource with the information received from the first resource in association with the first managed object;

receiving a request to access information related to the first managed object; [[and]]

upon receiving the request to access information related to the first managed object, accessing <u>the first managed object; and</u>

<u>retrieving ,from the accessed object,</u> information stored by the first resource and separately stored by the second resource ~~to access information related to the first managed object.~~

14.   (Original)   A method as defined in claim 13 wherein the information received from the first resource comprises a first property page and wherein the information received from the second resource comprises a second property page and wherein the method further comprises:

creating a property sheet for the first managed object;

associating the first property page with the property sheet; and

associating the second property page with the property sheet.

15. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 14 further comprising:

receiving a search request from a client computer system; and

searching two or more ~~a plurality of~~ resources in response to the single search request

using information associated with the property sheet.

16. (Original) A method as defined in claim 15 further comprising the act of

sharing search information between resources.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 14 further comprising:

receiving a task request from a client computer system; and

in response to the task request, requesting task completion from two or more ~~a plurality~~

~~of~~ resources.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 17 wherein the act of

requesting task completion from two or more ~~a plurality of~~ resources comprises:

identifying two or more resources to configure in response to the task request; and

performing the task by accessing the two or more resources identified to

perform a task from a client's computer system.

19. (Original) A method as defined in claim 13 wherein the act of receiving

information from the first and second resources is performed by a configuration manager and

wherein the method further comprises:

notifying a search manager that search information has been received.

20. (Original) A method as defined in claim 13 wherein the act of receiving

information from the first and second resources is performed by a configuration manager and

wherein the method further comprises:

notifying a task manager that search information has been received.

21 – 23. Cancelled

24. (Previously presented) A computer program product readable by a computer and having stored thereon a data structure comprising information provided by a first resource relating to attribute information for a first managed object and information provided by a second resource relating to attribute information for the first managed object, wherein the attribute information is utilized in response to a request for information about the first managed object.

25. (Previously presented) The computer program product as defined in claim 24 wherein the data structure further comprises task information provided by the first and second resources utilized in response to a request for information about the first managed object.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the two or more ~~plurality of~~ resources comprises one of printer, workstation, server, databases, security systems, email account, or user account.